



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

-----MEDIA ADVISORY-----

**MAYOR PEREZ WANTS TO CHANGE THE WAY
STATE MONEY IS SPENT ON HARTFORD YOUTH**

WHAT: News Conference

WHEN: Monday, January 9, 2006 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Johnson-Stewart Community Center
127 Martin Street in Hartford's Northeast neighborhood

Mayor Eddie Perez wants to shift the emphasis of state funding for Hartford youth. The Mayor will outline his plan to put more money towards preventing youngsters from getting into trouble in the first place instead of spending even more funds on "after the fact" programs.

In spring of 2005, Mayor Perez commissioned a study of funding and programs for Hartford's young people ages 9 to 24. It found that more than \$102 million in state money is spent on this targeted group with the most funds going to detention and custodial services and the least going to Summer youth employment, job training and after school programs.

Mayor Perez says, "The State has it backwards. The right money is being spent in the wrong places. This is not an issue of more money. It is an issue of spending it more efficiently and effectively. For Hartford to continue to make strides as New England's Rising Star, more emphasis must be placed on Hartford's youngest citizens through early intervention strategies."

For more information, contact Sarah Barr, Director of Communications at (860) 522-4888 x6217.